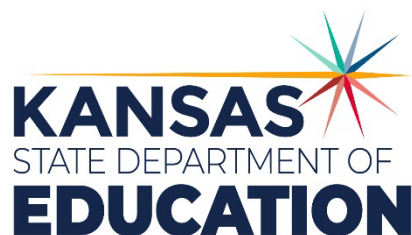


SELECTED HOUSE AND SENATE

Education Bill Summaries

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BILLS PASSED INTO LAW



Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.



Kansas State Board of Education

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Vision

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

SUCCESS DEFINED

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- Academic preparation,
- Cognitive preparation,
- Technical skills,
- Employability skills and
- Civic engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

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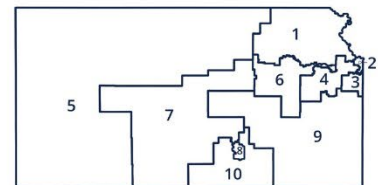


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Kansas divided into the ten State Board of Education districts.



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May 27, 2026

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Policy Bills Impacting School Districts	
Senate Bill 244	6
Multiple and Single Occupancy Spaces	6
Senate Bill 260	9
Elections	9
Senate Bill 361	10
Federal Tax Credit Participation	10
Senate Bill 382	11
Nonpublic School Activities, Virtual Assessments, Foreign Exchange Student Enrollment	11
House Bill 2299	13
Electronic Device and Social Media Use Policies	13
House Bill 2320	16
Foster Care Student Enrollment	16
House Bill 2402	18
Innovative School Districts and Community Eligibility Provision	18
House Bill 2482	19
Pre-College, College, and Career Readiness Assessments	19
House Bill 2485	20
Blueprint for Literacy, Every Child Can Read Act, and Career Readiness Assessments	20
House Bill 2533	26
Athletic Trainer Licensure Compact	26
House Bill 2534	29
School Safety and At Risk Accountability Plans	29
House Bill 2537	33
Caleb's Law	33
House Bill 2593	34
Contingency Fee Contracts	34
House Bill 2618	37
Federal Assistance Report and Legislative Report Sunsets	37
House Bill 2622	39
Municipal Lease Purchases	39
House Bill 2761	40
Speech Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act	40

Bills Impacting the Kansas State Department of Education

Senate Bill 30	42
Occupational Licensure Legislative Review	42

Budget Bill

House Bill 2513	44
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2026 EDUCATION BILL SUMMARIES

Introduction

This booklet, Selected House and Senate Education Bill Summaries – 2026 Legislative Session, is published annually to provide enrolled copies and summaries of selected education bills passed by the Kansas Legislature relating generally to Unified School Districts, interlocals, cooperatives, and accredited private schools.

The summaries of the bills are prepared by the Kansas State Department of Education. The bills chosen include important legislative information related to education. Each bill in its entirety may be found and printed on the Kansas Legislature website: <https://www.kslegislature.gov>

2026 EDUCATION BILL SUMMARIES

Policy Bills Impacting School Districts

House sub. for Senate Bill 244

Multiple and Single Occupancy Spaces

House sub. for Senate Bill 244 requires the designation of multiple-occupancy private spaces and single-occupancy private spaces in public buildings for use by only one sex and establishes criminal and civil penalties for noncompliance. The bill also amends various statutes to align the definitions of “female”, “male” and “sex” to mean the same as KSA 2025 Supp. 77-207 and to define “government entity” as the same as the Kansas Tort Claims Act (KSA 76-6101 et seq.) The bill also includes provisions related to the issuance of driver’s licenses that do not impact school districts.

DEFINITIONS

The bill provides the following definitions for terms used throughout:

- “Multiple occupancy private space” is defined as a facility designed or designated for simultaneous use by more than one individual and in which an individual may be in a state of undress in the presence of another individual, regardless of whether the facility provides curtains or partial walls for privacy. Multiple occupancy private space includes, but is not limited to, a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room.
- “Public building” is defined as a building owned or leased by a governmental entity. The definition does not include a building that is owned by a governmental entity that is leased to a private entity, whether for profit or not for profit, if the lease agreement was in place before the effective date of the act.
- “Single occupancy private space” is defined as a facility designed or designated for use by only one individual at a time and in which the individual may be in a state of undress. Single occupancy space includes, but is not limited to, a single use toilet restroom with a locking door that is designed or designated as unisex; or a family restroom or changing room.

DESIGNATION OF PRIVATE SPACES

The bill requires the governing body or chief administrative officer of each public building in the state to designate each multiple-occupancy space in the building for use of individuals of only one sex. Each governing body or chief administrative officer is also required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that an individual does not enter a multi-occupancy private space that is designated for use of individuals of the opposite sex. The requirements cannot prohibit a governing body or chief administrative officer from adopting a policy in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for individuals that require assistance when using a multiple-occupancy or single-occupancy space.

EXCEPTIONS

The bill provides exemptions that allow an individual to enter a multiple-occupancy private space

designated for individuals of the opposite sex for the following purposes:

- A child under the age of nine may enter a multiple occupancy space designed for use by individuals of the opposite sex if accompanied by an individual caring for such child;
- Custodial purposes;
- Maintenance or inspection purposes;
- Rendering medical or other emergency assistance;
- Accompanying or providing assistance to an individual who needs assistance using the facility;
- Law enforcement purposes;
- Rendering assistance necessary to prevent a serious threat or proper order or safety; or
- Providing coaching or athletic training during athletic events, provided such individual is a member of the coaching or athletic training staff and the individual ensures that no individual of the opposite sex is in a state of undress prior to entering the multiple-occupancy space.

GOVERNMENT ENTITY VIOLATIONS

Complaint

The bill allows individuals to file a complaint with the Attorney General against a governmental entity (entity) for a multiple-occupancy violation if:

- The person provides the entity with written notice detailing the violation; and
- The governing body or chief administrative officer does not remedy the violation by the end of the third business day after the date of receipt of the notice.

Penalty

Each complaint must include a copy of the written notice that was provided to the entity and the complainant's affidavit alleging the violation. An entity that violates the multiple-occupancy provisions of the bill would be liable for a civil penalty of \$25,000 for the first violation and \$125,000 for each subsequent violation, with each day of a continuing violation constituting a separate violation.

Attorney General Investigation

Before bringing an action against an entity for a multiple-occupancy violation, the Attorney General is required to investigate the complaint to determine whether legal action is warranted. The entity subject to the complaint would be required to provide the Attorney General with any requested information in connection with the investigation, including but not limited to, supporting documentation related to the complaint and a statement on whether the entity has complied or intends to comply with the multiple-occupancy requirements of the bill.

Legal Action

If the Attorney General finds that legal action is warranted, the Attorney General would be required to provide written notice to the entity that includes the following:

- A description of the violation and location of the multiple occupancy private space found to be in violation;
- The amount of the proposed penalty for the violation; and
- Notice that the penalty may be avoided by remedying the violation on or before the 15th day after receipt of the notice from the Attorney General.

If a violation is not remedied by the deadline, the Attorney General is authorized to assess a civil penalty as defined in the bill.

INDIVIDUAL VIOLATIONS

The bill makes it a violation for an individual to enter a multiple occupancy private space designated for use only by individuals of the opposite sex, with exceptions outlined in the bill (above).

Notice and Investigation

Upon a complaint being filed that an individual violated the provisions of the bill, the entity's governing body or chief administrative officer is required to investigate the allegations. Upon a finding of a violation, the entity or chief administrative officer is required to provide written notice of the violation to the individual to include:

- The date and location of the multiple-occupancy space where the violation occurred;
- A statement that repeated violations may result in fines or criminal charges; and
- The procedure to administratively appeal the violation finding.

Penalty

Any individual found to have committed a second violation of the multiple occupancy provisions would be liable for a civil penalty of \$1,000. A third or subsequent violation would be penalized as a Class B misdemeanor. The Attorney General is authorized to bring an action to assess the penalty if the violation occurs in a state building. If the violation occurs in a municipal building, the county or district attorney for the county where the violation occurred is authorized to bring action to assess the penalty.

CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION

The bill permits individuals to bring a civil cause of action if they are aggrieved by the invasion of their own personal privacy or are otherwise harmed by an individual's violation of the provisions of the bill. The individual could seek actual damages or liquidated damages in an amount of \$1,000 and declaratory and injunctive relief.

All civil actions under the bill must commence within two years of the violation occurring. The prevailing party of the cause of action would recover reasonable attorney fees and costs. The bill authorizes an affirmative defense by defendants who did not know that the multiple-occupancy private space was designated for use of individuals of the opposite sex to that of the defendant.

Civil penalties collected by the Attorney General would be required to be deposited into the Crime Victims Compensation Fund and any civil penalties collected by a county or district attorney would be deposited into the general fund of the county where the action was brought.

SEVERABILITY

The bill states that the provisions are severable and therefore, if any provision of the bill or application to any individual or circumstance is found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions or the applicability of the remaining provisions to any individual or circumstance would not be impacted.

Enactment date

The bill took effect upon publication in the Kansas Register on February 26, 2026.

###

Senate Bill 260

Elections

Senate Bill 260 amends various sections of election law, the Campaign Finance Act, and Mail Ballot Election Act regarding the withdrawal of candidates from certain elections, a vacancy in the joint candidacy of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, “paid for” or “sponsored by” attributions, and campaign expenditures for vendors. The bill also amends statute concerning elections for members of the boards of directors of certain irrigation districts, which will not be explained in this bill summary.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CERTAIN ELECTIONS

The bill permits a candidate for school board, city official, or community college trustee to withdraw their candidacy if:

- The candidate certifies to the county election officer that they are withdrawing because of a severe medical hardship on the candidate or the candidate’s immediate family. The candidate must send the county election officer a certification of the severe medical hardship signed by a physician; or
- The candidate certifies to the county election officer that the candidate no longer resides in the district for which they filed for office.

If the county election officer receives such certification for the above circumstances on or before September 1 of the year of the election, the candidate’s name must be withdrawn and not be printed on the ballot. Additionally, the bill provides that if a candidate dies on or before September 1 of the year of the election, their name shall be withdrawn and not appear on the printed ballot.

The bill also authorizes the withdrawal of a candidate for any national, state, county, or township office if the nominee certifies to the Secretary of State (Secretary) that the nominee does not reside in Kansas or in the county or district in which the candidate was nominated.

“PAID FOR” AND “SPONSORED BY” ATTRIBUTIONS

The bill amends the definition of “corrupt political advertising” within the Campaign Finance Act and elections crime law to remove requirements to list the treasurer in “paid for” or “sponsored by” attributions in political advertisements. The bill only requires the name of the chairperson or sponsoring organization on such communications.

EXPENDITURES FOR VENDORS

The bill amends the Campaign Finance Act regarding the campaign treasurer’s report. When a payment is made to an advertising agency, public relations firm, or political consultant for disbursement to vendors, the bill requires the treasurer’s report to show the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure, removing the requirement in law to show in detail the name of each vendor.

Enactment Date

The bill is effective upon publication in the statute book.

###

Senate Bill 361

Federal Tax Credit Participation

Senate Bill 361 authorizes the state of Kansas to participate in the federal tax credit program for contributions of individuals to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) pursuant to Section 25F of the federal internal code for all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026. The bill directs the State Treasurer to annually provide the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's designee, any required information, including but not limited to, a list of the SGOs that meet requirements set forth in Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code and are located in the state of Kansas.

Any state department, division, or other agency is prohibited from promulgating any rules and regulations that are more stringent than applicable federal law or rules and regulations when implementing these provisions.

Section 25F of the federal internal code defines an SGO as any organization which:

- Is described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(4) and is not a private foundation
- Prevents the co-mingling of qualified contributions with other amounts by maintaining one or more separate accounts exclusively for qualified contributions;
- Satisfies the requirements outlined below; and
- Is included on the list of the applicable covered State for the applicable year.

An organization meets the requirements for an SGO if the organization:

- Provides scholarship to 10 or more students who do not all attend the same school;
- Spends no less than 90% of the income of the organization on scholarships for eligible students;
- Does not provide scholarships for any expenses other than qualified elementary or secondary education expenses;
- Provides a scholarship to eligible students with a priority for:
 - Students awarded a scholarship the previous school year; and
 - After consideration of students awarded a scholarship the previous school year, any eligible students who have a sibling who was awarded a scholarship from the organization;
- Does not embark or set aside contributions for scholarships on behalf of any particular student; and
- The organization verifies the annual household income and family size of eligible students who apply for scholarships to ensure students meet the requirements of the federal code and does not award a scholarship to students who has a household income that exceeds the limit set forth in the federal code.

Enactment Date

The bill is effective upon publication in the statute book.

###

Senate Bill 382

Nonpublic school activities, virtual assessments, foreign exchange student enrollment

Senate Bill 382 authorizes accredited nonpublic schools (nonpublic school) to allow students enrolled in and attending a nonaccredited private school (private school) to participate in activities governed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) at the nonpublic school. The bill also amends statute to clarify foreign exchange student enrollment in the district of the host family, clarifies eligibility for special teacher reimbursement, and amends sections of law related to administration of assessments for virtual school students.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN KSHSAA ACTIVITIES AT A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL

The bill authorizes nonpublic schools to permit private school students to participate in activities governed by KSHSAA that are offered by the nonpublic school and any ceremonies, programs, or other functions directly related to the activity. The nonpublic school is permitted to adopt policies regarding participation in the related school-sponsored events, ceremonies, programs, or other functions that are not directly related to the activity.

For purposes of participation, the bill requires that a student:

- Is a resident of Kansas;
- Is enrolled and attending a nonaccredited private elementary or secondary school;
- Meets applicable age and eligibility requirements set forth by KSHSAA;
- Pays any fees required by the nonpublic school for participation in the activity if such fees are generally required for all students that participate in the activity; and
- Is permitted to participate in the activity by the governing body of the nonpublic school.

The nonpublic school could require private school students to enroll in a course as a condition of participation in the activity if enrollment in a specific course is generally required for all students to participate. Such students are also subject to any tryout or other participation requirements otherwise applicable to all other students for participation in the activity. Students deemed to be eligible for participation are entitled to the same rights and are subject to all responsibilities of any other participating student regardless of enrollment status.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The bill clarifies that foreign exchange students residing with a host family are permitted to enroll in the school district in which the host family resides and are exempt from the open enrollment lottery process.

SPECIAL TEACHER REIMBURSEMENT

The bill amends the definition of “special teacher” for the distribution of special education state aid to clarify that individuals employed by a third party that have a contract with a school district to provide special education or related services are eligible for reimbursement. The bill also amends the

distribution of special education state aid to clarify that special teacher reimbursement is to be based on the number of special teachers providing approved services to students with individual education plans (IEPs) rather than the number of special teachers employed by a school district who are qualified to provide special education or related services.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

The bill requires that state assessments administered virtually to a student enrolled in a virtual school to be administered by the student's virtual school. The bill provides for the following amendments to the conditions under which a virtual assessment may be administered:

- Requires the date and time for the administration of a state assessment for a virtual school to occur in the same date range as those assigned to non-virtual students enrolled in the school district;
- Authorizes the virtual school to designate the assessment proctor for the virtual state assessment. Any costs incurred for any proctor designated by the virtual school are the responsibility of the virtual school;
- Authorizes the virtual school proctor to administer the virtual state assessment and monitor the student taking it on the same device so long as the assessment platform provides for integrated camera proctoring;
- Requires a second device with a working camera, provided by the student or the virtual school, for the virtual school proctor to monitor the student taking the virtual assessment if the assessment platform does not provide for integrated camera monitoring; and
- Requires the virtual school to designate an assessment administrator to verify completed assessments.

The bill also authorizes the Kansas State Department of Education to monitor the administration of state assessments of virtual school students in the same manner as state assessments administered to non-virtual students.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

Senate Sub. for Sub. for House Bill 2299

Electronic Device and Social Media Use Policies

Senate Sub. for Sub. for House Bill 2299 requires each school district and accredited nonpublic school to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of personal electronic devices during the school day and regarding the use of social media platforms. The bill also includes language related to rights of certain nonpublic schools.

DEFINITIONS

The bill defines the following terms:

- “Accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school” is defined as a nonpublic elementary or secondary school that is accredited by the state board of education, including any nonpublic elementary or secondary school that is dually accredited by the state board of education and an accredited entity other than the state board.
- “Personal electronic device” means any electronic device that provides for voice, text, or video communication between two or more parties, including but not limited to a mobile or cellular phone, tablet, computer, watch, wireless headphones, or earbuds, text messaging device or personal digital assistant that is not owned or issued to students by the school district or accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school.
- “School day” means the time from the start of school until dismissal at the end of the day on the school premises, including but not limited to, the time in any classroom, structured or unstructured learning setting, recess, lunch, or passing period.
- “Social media platform” means an online website or application that permits a person to become a registered user, create an account or profile for the primary purpose of creating, sharing, or interacting with user-generated content that is publicly viewable by users. This includes, but is not limited to Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, X, and TikTok.
 - Social media platforms do not include:
 - Any email platform
 - A website approved by the board of education or the governing authority of an accredited nonpublic school if the platform is:
 - Owned, licensed, or contractually controlled by the school district or nonpublic school;
 - Allows for restricted user accounts;
 - Allows communications to be monitored, archived, retained, or audited in compliance with policy or law;
 - Is accessible to parents or guardians; and
 - Used by employees in accordance with policy.
 - Direct messaging services that only share messages between a sender and a named recipient and do not display or post messages publicly or to users not identified as recipients by the sender of the message; and

- Any online product or service that does not have school specific features or identifiers and the predominant purpose is to post educational materials, news, or resources and user comments or other interactive functionality that is incidental to such predominant purpose.
- “Official school purposes” means the broadcasting or posting of public, one-way communications that pertain to school functions, activities, or events. This does not include private communications or two-way communications with any student.

CELL PHONE POLICIES

On or before September 1, 2026, each board of education of a school district and governing authority of a nonpublic school must submit certification to the state board of education, on a form and in the manner prescribed by the state board of education, that the school district or nonpublic school has adopted required policies and procedures for the use of personal electronic devices and social media. Such policies and procedures must prohibit students from using or accessing personal electronic devices during the school day and require that all personal electronic devices be turned off and securely stored away from the student’s person in an inaccessible location during the school day. The policy or procedure must also authorize students to not bring personal electronic device to school by leaving them at home or in a vehicle, even if the vehicle is located on school property and must set forth enforcement procedures and disciplinary actions for violations of the policy or procedure.

Students must also be authorized to use their personal electronic devices during the school day if the use is:

- Required for the implementation of a student’s individualized education program or 504 plan; or approved by a licensed physician as a medical necessity to support the health or well-being of the student; and
- The intervention of last resort such that there is no other reasonable alternative option available for the student.

School districts must also permit students to contact their parent or person acting as parent through a school telephone or other communications device designated and made available by the school for such purpose.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES

The bill requires each school district and governing authority of an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary school (nonpublic school) to prohibit each employee of the school district or nonpublic school from privately or directly communicating with any student through social media platforms, and from requiring the use of social media for any assignment or extracurricular activity. The board of education of any school district or nonpublic school may approve a social media platform to be used for official school purposes.

LIABILITY

The bill states that no board of education of a school district or governing authority of a nonpublic school will be liable for any damage to or storage of personal electronic devices brought to school.

ACCREDITATION FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

The bill states that any nonpublic school operating in Kansas may voluntarily seek accreditation by the State Board of Education and may also be accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency. The bill states that each nonpublic school accredited by a regional or national accredited agency recognized by the State Board of Education is entitled to the same rights as nonpublic schools accredited by the State Board of Education.

EXEMPTION

Provisions related to policies for personal electronic devices and social media use do not apply to virtual schools.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2320

Foster Care Student Enrollment

House Bill 2320 amends law related to children in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families (foster care student), including best interest determinations, enrollment in public schools, and the creation of transportation plans. The bill also provides for requirements for the transfer of records.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The bill provides for foster care students to attend any school district within the state, or to remain in their school of origin, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the student. The bill also permits foster care students whose placement has changed such that they cross a school boundary within the same school district to either remain at their school of origin or attend a school of the school district where they are placed.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

If a foster care student's placement changes from one school district to another or across a school boundary within the same district and it is determined that the student should remain in the school of origin, the bill requires the affected school district and the Secretary for Children and Families to coordinate the development of a transportation plan to provide transportation for the foster care student to and from the school of origin.

A transportation plan must address the availability and cost of transportation, including whether the costs would be reimbursed by the Secretary for Children and Families, paid by the school district, or to be shared by both parties. The bill also requires that consideration be given to the following when developing the transportation plan:

- Age, maturity, and behavioral capacity of the student;
- Type of transportation available;
- Flexibility in the school schedule;
- The effect of extracurricular activities on transportation options;
- Traffic routes and patterns; and
- Individualized needs of the student.

BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION

The bill requires the Secretary for Children and Families make a best interest determination before any planned placement change, or within two business days following any unplanned placement for a foster care student. The best interest determination is required to follow federal and state law, and procedures set forth in the Department of Children and Families manual.

TRANSFER OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

The bill requires the Secretary of Children and Families, Secretary of Corrections, and Commissioner of Juvenile Justice to notify the affected school district that a student's placement has changed. Following receipt of such notification, the school district must transfer the student's educational records within two business days following the day the school district received such notification. The bill defines "business day" as any weekday from Monday through Friday in which the school district or school's

administrative office is open. A “business day” does not include any federal or state holiday, any weekday that the school district or school’s administrative office is closed or any weekday in which the school day has been canceled due to inclement weather or any other unforeseen circumstances.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2402

Innovative School Districts and Community Eligibility Provision

House Bill 2402 amends deadlines related to the Public Innovative School District Act and requires school districts to consider participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

PUBLIC INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT ACT

The bill changes the following deadlines within the Public Innovative School District Act:

- School district applications to the State Board of Education for approval to operate as a public innovative school district changed from December 1 to May 1;
- Reduced the State Board of Education's window to review and act upon school district applications from 90 days to 45 days after the application was received;
- Reduced the State Board of Education's window to act on a request for reconsideration from 60 days to 45 days after the request for reconsideration was received.

The bill also provides that if the State Board of Education or the Public Innovative District Coalition Board does not act upon a school district's application within the windows provided in the bill (above), the district's application is deemed to be approved.

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

The bill requires local school boards with one or more school(s) with at least 50 percent of the school's students directly certified as eligible to receive free lunch under the NSLP to determine the number of students enrolled and attending the school district that qualify for free meals through direct certification under the NSLP. Following such determination, the local board must consider participation in the CEP for the school district as a whole or any school within the district determined to be eligible.

If the local board determines that participation in CEP would cause financial hardship for the district, the local board must demonstrate the financial hardship in an open public meeting, and by majority vote, declare that the school or school district elects not to participate in CEP. If participation would not cause a financial hardship, the board would vote to approve of participation. Upon a majority vote to participate, the board would direct the superintendent to take steps necessary to participate.

Enactment Date

Provisions related to the Public Innovative School District Act took effect upon publication in the Kansas Register on April 16, 2026 and provisions related to participation in CEP take effect on and after July 1, 2026.

###

House Bill 2482

Pre-college, College, and Career Readiness Exams

House Bill 2482 amends current statute to remove references to exams provided by ACT to examinations provided by nationally recognized college entrance exam or preparatory exam.

The bill changes statutory references to examinations that the State Board of Education must provide:

- A nationally recognized college entrance exam that measures math, science, reading, and writing skills of each student enrolled in grades 11 and 12;
- A pre-college entrance exam that is aligned with such nationally recognized college entrance exam to each student enrolled in grade nine; and
- A career readiness assessment or a series of career readiness assessments that lead to a nationally recognized credential to each student enrolled in grade 11.

Enactment Date

The bill takes effect and will be in force from and after July 1, 2027, and its publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2485

Blueprint for Literacy, Every Child Can Read Act, Career Readiness Assessments

House Bill 2485 amends statutes regarding the Every Child Can read Act, the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy, and requires each postsecondary institution to adopt and implement policies to provide credit for ACT WorkKeys or similar assessments towards a postsecondary degree. The bill provides for requirements related to agreements between public schools and community and technical colleges. The bill also contains provisions related to higher education scholarships not described in this bill summary.

Blueprint for Literacy

DEFINITIONS

New Definitions

- “Field experience” is defined as structured, supervised learning opportunities where pre-service educators observe, interact with students and apply evidence-aligned reading practices in authentic and diverse classroom settings.
- “Literary practicum” means field experience that provides explicit, guided, hands-on practice delivering evidence-based instructional practices in one-on-one or small group instruction administering literacy assessments, designing and implementing diagnostic and prescriptive instructional plans with joint supervision and mentorship by literacy faculty and an experienced mentor teacher.
- “Mentor teacher” is defined as a licensed teacher who has earned the Kansas seal of literacy and models evidence-aligned literacy instruction to ensure pre-service educators to gain meaningful, high-impact teaching experience that bridges theory and practice.
- “Ongoing professional learning” is defined as a continuous, job-embedded process to improve teaching effectiveness and student achievement, including active collaborative learning that integrates new knowledge and skills into daily practice.

Amended Definitions

- “Science of reading” is amended to mean an interdisciplinary body of evidence that informs how students learn to read and write proficiently. Science of reading informs evidence-based practices and includes phonetic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- “Structured literacy” is amended to mean a comprehensive instructional approach that guides how reading is taught by providing direct, explicit, sequential, data-driven and systematic instruction leading to mastery of reading and writing.

LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The bill amends provisions related to the Literacy Advisory Committee (Committee) to require that members appointed to the Committee have expertise in:

- Evidence-based literacy practices;
- Educator preparation;
- Science of reading research and evaluation;

- Dyslexia research;
- Literacy intervention;
- Implementation science or literacy policy development.

The bill transfers the requirement to attain the transformational goal for credentialing certain educators in the science of reading and structured literacy by 2030 and student achievement on the English Language Arts (ELA) state assessment by 2033 from being a responsibility of the Committee to being a joint responsibility of the State Board of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents.

The bill removes reporting requirements for the Committee and replaces such language with a requirement for the Committee to make an annual progress report on or before January 31 of each year to the State Board of Education, Legislature, House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education.

The Director of Literacy Education replaces the term “tier I literacy methodologies” with the term “structured literacy and evidence-based practices” related to the responsibilities of the Director of Literacy Education to ensure the use of such methodologies or practices by state educational institutions, elementary, and secondary schools.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

Individual Student Literacy Plans

Beginning in school year 2027-2028, the bill requires each school district to develop Individual Student Literacy Plans (literacy plans) for all students in grades kindergarten through three that perform in the high-risk category on the fall screening measure. Literacy Plans are required by the bill to be developed in partnership with the student’s parent or person acting as parent and include a minimum of 90 minutes per week of interventions that are:

- Targeted and tiered;
- Designed to address the student’s individual deficiencies; and
- Delivered as one-on-one instruction, small group instruction, tutoring or a summer school program.

The bill also requires literacy plans to include a diagnostic assessment, progress monitoring, and interventions until the student achieves grade level performance. A teacher of a student with a literacy plan is also required to communicate with the student’s parent or person acting as parent with information required for the Every Child Can Read Act.

Beginning in school year 2028-2029, the bill also requires that every school district employ, either directly, through shared cooperative agreement, or by contract, a licensed reading specialist for each elementary school in the district.

The bill states that retired or substitute teachers are not required to complete the approved training in the Science of Reading, structured literacy, or other training to receive the seal of literacy through the Kansas State Department of Education.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The bill requires the State Board of Education to:

- Designate best practices based on the Science of reading, with structured literacy as the core

- literacy methodology;
- Prohibit the use or teaching of any discredited methodology, including the three-cueing system;
- Require applicants for licensure for special education and grades Pre-K through eight to complete a minimum of 45 clock hours in a literacy practicum designed to increase skills and expertise in:
 - Screening, diagnostic, and formative assessments;
 - Developing instructional plans; and applying evidence-based practices in elementary and secondary school settings.
- Require reading specialists to complete a minimum of 45 clock hours in a literacy clinical that:
 - Utilizes assessment tools and data interpretation;
 - Applies evidence-based practices in a small or whole group instruction;
 - Is under the supervision of a literacy expert with a minimum certification that demonstrates expertise in structured literacy.
- Ensure school districts develop literacy plans aligned to the template developed by KSDE;
- Ensure educator preparation programs provide evidence that teacher candidates can demonstrate competency of:
 - Literary assessment tools and data interpretations;
 - Utilization of literacy screening;
 - Diagnostic, progress monitoring, and formative assessment tools recommended by KSDE;
 - Skills to administer and interpret a variety of assessments to effectively instruct students in small groups and individually in authentic school settings; and
 - Develop plans to guide instruction based on the needs of diverse learners
- Submit an annual report to the Literacy Advisory Committee on or before November 1 of each year and publish such report on the KSDE website. The report must include:
 - Literacy screening measures for each grade level and all subgroups including, but not limited to, those defined in the bill;
 - ELA State Assessment scores for each grade level and all subgroups;
 - Literacy training for in-service and pre-service teachers.

STATE BOARD OF REGENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

The bill requires the State Board of Regents to do the following:

- Support the state board of education in the official designation of best practices based on the Science of reading with Structured literacy as the core literacy methodology;
- Support elementary and secondary schools to eliminate any discredited methodologies as needed;
- Recommend literacy-specific universal screening measures and diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments to the State Board of Education; and
- Approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the Literacy Advisory Committee for state educational institutions.

JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES

The bill establishes the following joint responsibilities for the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents:

- Approval of credential requirements for in-service teachers or certification requirements for pre-service teachers at state educational institutions in the Science of Reading and structured literacy;

- Developing or making available professional development programs and credential courses through a national online learning program or accredited Kansas postsecondary educational institutions for all Kansas licensed and practicing teachers at low or no cost to teachers;
- Ensuring all pre-service teacher preparation programs at state educational institutions are based on the Science of reading and Structured literacy in accordance with the state board of education accreditation of for programs for undergraduate elementary educators and graduate reading specialists, special education, school psychologists, curriculum and instruction specialists and educational leadership graduate programs. State educational institutions must provide evidence that such programs are exclusively using Science of reading and evidence-based practices;
- Responsibility of the attainment of the transformational goal to have 100% of Kansas special education, English for speakers of other languages, and elementary workforce achieve a credential in the Science of reading and Structured literacy by 2030, leading to 90% of students in each grade three through eight achieving a level 3 or above on the English Language Arts assessment by 2033.
- Publication of standards and course progressions to achieve transparency of Kansas reading education programs;
- Provide data for the program that tracks the Science of reading and Structured literacy training progression, course material and rigor of application of all Kansas licensed and practicing teachers and administrators;
- Make recommendations to the State Board of Education on high quality instructional materials that include tier I curriculum resources and intervention curriculum and provide a list of such materials to school district boards of education;
- Review undergraduate literacy courses, materials, and resources and make recommendations for improvements to such courses, materials, and resources at least every three years;
- Implement ongoing professional development in evidence-based literacy at low or no cost for reading specialists, special education teachers, paraeducators, school psychologists, and school district leaders;
- Accept certifications from the International Multisensory Structured Language Council, International Dyslexia Association, and Academic Language Therapy Association-accredited programs;
- Seek reciprocity for advanced degrees in literacy from international dyslexia accreditation programs within accredited institutions recognized by one of the six regional United States Department of Education accrediting institutions until such a program is established in Kansas;
- Develop a comprehensive literacy implementation plan for Pre-K through grade 12 and postsecondary education in partnership with the Kansas legislature. This plan must address:
 - All policy requirements for the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy, including timeline and resources; and
 - include educator preparation, high-impact ongoing professional learning, and high-quality instructional materials, assessment intervention, multi-tiered systems of support and family resources and support.

The bill requires the annual report prepared on the comprehensive literacy implementation plan to be presented to the State Board of Education, the State Board of Regents, and the Senate Education Committee, House Education Committee, and House Committee on Higher Education Budget. An initial report of the comprehensive plan is required to be submitted to such legislative committees on or before May 1, 2026 with the full comprehensive plan to be submitted to all required entities on or

before January 15, 2027.

The bill also includes responsibilities of postsecondary education institutions related to the Blueprint for Literacy.

Every Child Can Read Act

UNIVERSAL SCREENER

The bill requires the use of a single, statewide universal screening tool recommended in the comprehensive literacy plan due to the State Board of Education on June 1, 2026. The universal screener will be implemented as a required measurement of student achievement beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTING

The bill adds additional requirements regarding data reported to the Kansas State Department of Education on or before June 30 of each year by school districts to include:

- The number of students in grades pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) through eight who performed in the high-risk category on the fall screening measure;
- Beginning in school year 2027-2028, the number of students kindergarten through grade three with an individual student literacy plan; and
- Beginning in school year 2027-2028, the number of students in grades kindergarten through three who exited the high-risk category or the student's individual literacy plan by the end of the school year.

KSDE ANNUAL REPORT

The bill includes the State Board and Literacy Advisory Committee as recipients of the report required to be prepared by the Kansas State Department of Education on school district data. The bill also amends the report due date from on or before January 15 to on or before October 1 of each year.

ACT WORKKEYS AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENTS

The bill amends current law to require postsecondary education institutions to adopt and implement credit transfer policies for the ACT WorkKeys assessment, or a similar career readiness assessment. Each postsecondary institution must adopt and implement a policy to use the platinum, gold, or silver credential earned through the ACT WorkKeys, or a similar credential earned through a similar career readiness assessment, as transferable credit towards the attainment of a postsecondary degree. Such transferability must be based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education National Guide.

PUBLIC SCHOOL AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

The bill permits community and technical colleges to enter into agreements with school districts to provide college courses at the high school or high schools within a school district. The bill requires such agreements to adhere to Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) service areas and concurrent enrollment policies.

Beginning July 1, 2026, the bill requires agreements to include the following requirements for community

or technical colleges:

- Directly purchase any instructional materials and supplies required for the course, if materials or supplies are not already provided by the school district;
- Pay the standard amount provided in the bill for teaching services to the school district
 - The standard amount is defined as \$600 per credit hour not to exceed 10 credit hours per semester for teaching services. If the number of students enrolled in and attending a course is fewer than eight students, the payment for teaching services can be prorated based on the number of enrolled students; or
 - Not to exceed \$1,500 per semester for non-teaching site coordination services.
 - For academic years 2027-2028 and each academic year after, the “standard amount” will be the standard amount for the immediate preceding year plus an amount equal to the average percent increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers in the Midwest region during the three immediately preceding academic year, rounded to the nearest whole dollar.
- This section does not limit or restrict any negotiated agreement between a school district and the school district’s faculty or any negotiated agreement between a postsecondary education institution and the postsecondary education institution’s faculty that was in effect before July 1, 2026. Any negotiated agreement entered into or negotiated on or after July 1, 2026 must conform to the requirements of the bill.
- These provisions do not apply to any accredited independent institutions.

Enactment Date

The bill sections related to the Every Child Can Read Act and the Blueprint for Literacy took effect upon publication in the Kansas Register on April 30, 2026. All other provisions are effective upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2533

Athletic Trainer Compact

House Bill 2533 establishes four multistate licensure compacts: The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact, the Esthetics Licensure Compact, and the Athletic Trainer Licensure Compact. The Occupational Therapy and Athletic Trainer Licensure Compacts are described below.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

The stated purpose of the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact (OT Compact) is to facilitate the interstate practice of occupational therapy with the goal of improving public access to occupational therapy services and achieving objectives outlined in the bill to reduce administrative burden while increasing the availability of licensed occupational therapists. The OT compact preserves the regulatory authority of the participating states. The OT Compact is in effect when the OT compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state [*Note: The OT Compact has been enacted in 33 states including Kansas, with 5 states issuing OT compact privileges as of May, 2026.*]

The OT Compact allows Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants who are licensed and in good standing in a Compact member state to practice in Compact member states through a “Compact Privilege”, which is equivalent to a license. The OT Compact also establishes a licensure data system for verification of licensure information and establishes an interstate commission to carry out the Compact.

OT Compact privilege

The OT Compact requires licensees to meet fee, reporting, and credentialing requirements to exercise OT privileges and aligns OT Compact privilege with the underlying valid home state license including renewal criteria and supervision requirements set by the licensee’s home state. The OT Compact requires that a licensee practicing in a remote state adhere to the remote state’s laws and regulations regarding occupational therapy. The OT Compact allows active-duty military personnel and their spouses to designate a home state where the service member or spouse has a current license in good standing and allows the military personnel or spouse to retain that home state designation while the service member is active duty.

The OT Compact requires member states to:

- License occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;
- Participate fully in the OT Commission data system including using the OT Commission’s unique identifiers;
- Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints concerning licensees;
- Notify the OT Commission of any adverse actions or the availability of investigative information regarding a licensee;
- Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for an initial OT Compact privilege. Such procedures include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history record

from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the comparable state agency for OT Compact licensees;

- Comply with the rules of the OT Commission;
- Utilize only a recognized national examination as a requirement for licensure; and
- Have continuing competence or education requirements as a condition for license renewal.

The OT Compact requires granting a compact privilege to each licensee who has met the terms of the OT Compact, authorize member states to charge a fee for granting an OT Compact privilege, and require each member state to provide for the state's delegate to attend all OT Commission meetings.

The OT Compact also includes definition of terms used throughout the Compact, outlines adverse actions against licensees, provides for OT Commission rulemaking, describes the process for member states to withdraw from the OT Compact, and provides for oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement of the OT Compact.

ATHLETIC TRAINER LICENSURE COMPACT

The stated purpose of the Athletic Trainer (AT) Licensure Compact is to facilitate the mobility of interstate athletic training practice with the goal of improving public access to services and achieving the objectives outlined in the bill to reduce administrative burden while increasing the availability of licensed athletic trainers and cooperation among member state licensing bodies. The Compact preserves regulatory authority of participating states. The AT Compact is in effect on the date on which the AT Compact statute is enacted into law in the seventh member state [Note: the AT Compact statute has been enacted in Alabama, Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky, Virginia, and South Dakota as of May, 2026.]

The AT Compact allows Athletic Trainers who are licensed and in good standing in a Compact member state to practice in Compact member states through a "privilege to practice" while maintaining licensure in their state of qualifying licensure.

AT Compact privilege

The AT Compact requires a licensee to complete a criminal background check performed by the licensing authority in the state of the qualifying license prior to entry into the Compact and meet certification requirements or education requirements and licensure, fee, reporting, and credentialing requirements to exercise AT Compact privileges. The Compact also aligns requirements of the state of qualifying licensure, including renewal and supervision criteria. The AT Compact requires a licensee practicing in a remote state to adhere to the remote state's laws and regulations. The AT Compact allows active-duty military personnel and their spouses to designate a home state where the service member or spouse has a current license in good standing and allows the military personnel or spouse to retain that home state designation while the service member is active duty.

The AT Compact requires member states to:

- Enact and maintain a statute that is not materially different from the model Compact language;
- License and regulate the practice of athletic training;
- Require that licensees in the state maintain continuing competence standards as part of their state practice act or rules;
- Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints concerning licensees;
- Grant the compact privilege to a licensee who meets all requirements of the Compact;

- Participate fully in the Commission's data system, including using the unique identifier as defined in the rules;
- Notify the Commission of any adverse action or the availability of current significant investigative information regarding a licensee;
- Implement or utilize procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for an AT Compact qualifying license. These procedures include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the comparable state agency for AT Compact licensees; and
- Comply with and enforce the rules of the AT Commission.

The AT Compact also includes definition of terms used throughout the Compact, outlines adverse actions against licensees, provides for AT Commission rulemaking, describes the process for member states to withdraw from the AT Compact, and provides for oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement of the AT Compact.

###

House Bill 2534

School Safety and At-Risk Accountability Plans

House Bill 2534 requires school districts to develop fentanyl abuse education programs and to maintain a stock supply of naloxone at each school building, creates the Student Safe at School Act regarding active shooter drills and simulations in public and accredited nonpublic schools. The bill also amends the definition of a “crisis drill” for rules and regulations promulgated by the state fire marshal and amends requirements related to school district at-risk accountability plans.

FENTANYL ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The bill requires the State Board of Education to develop guidance for age-appropriate instruction on the prevention of the abuse of and addiction to fentanyl and other opioids and distribute such guidance to each school district.

Each school district is required to develop fentanyl abuse education programs based on the guidance provided by the state board of education to be provided to all students in grades nine through 12. Instruction must include prevention of the abuse and addiction to fentanyl and other opioids as well as community resources available to help with abuse and addiction issues. Such instruction can be provided as a part of any other drug abuse awareness and prevention program. School districts are permitted to work in cooperation with public or private third-party organizations, local health departments, or law enforcement agencies to deliver such programs.

Naloxone

Each school district is required to maintain a stock supply of naloxone. A stock supply may consist of one or more standard-dose prepackaged nasal spray devices. A school nurse or designated school personnel may administer naloxone in an emergency situation to any individual that shows the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose at school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored event if the school nurse or designated school personnel reasonably believes the individual is exhibiting the signs and symptoms of an overdose.

Each board of education must also establish policies and procedures for the storage of naloxone, ensuring it is stored in a secure location readily accessible to the school nurse or designated school personnel and the district ensures inventory and expiration dates are periodically monitored.

The bill allows a school district to accept monetary gifts, grants, and donations to meet the requirements of the bill, or to accept naloxone spray devices from a manufacturer or wholesaler.

Definitions

- A “designated school personnel” is defined as an employee, officer, agent, or volunteer of a school who is authorized by the board of education of the school district to administer naloxone on a voluntary basis outside of the scope of employment.
- “School nurse” is defined as a registered nurse licensed by the Board of Nursing to practice nursing in Kansas, or a licensed nurse working under a registered nurse who is employed by the school to perform nursing services in the school setting.

STUDENTS SAFE AT SCHOOLS ACT

The bill establishes a new section of law entitled the Students Safe at Schools Act and provides for requirements related to active shooter drills and simulations.

Definitions

- “Active Shooter Drill” is defined as an emergency preparedness drill designed to inform and instruct students, teachers, school personnel and other school staff on how to respond in the event that an armed intruder is on the school campus or an armed assailant is in the immediate vicinity of the school. Active shooter drills include:
 - For Kindergarten through grade five, instruction through tabletop exercises and identification of appropriate places for students to locate during an emergency and
 - for grades six through 12, include the information described above and the practice of an active shooter drill.
 - Active shooter drills do not include any sensory components, activities, or elements that mimic a real-life shooting, now those are to be considered an active shooter simulation.
- “Active Shooter Simulation” means an emergency exercise, including full-scale or functional exercises, designed to inform and instruct adult teachers, school personnel, and other school staff on how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on the school campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school. This includes activities or elements mimicking a real-life shooting, including, but not limited to simulation of tactical response by law enforcement.
- “Tabletop exercise” is defined as an exercise designed to help students better understand their individual or group roles and responsibilities. Tabletop exercises may include constructive problem solving as it relates to an armed intruder on the school property or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school and may incorporate age-appropriate written or video scenarios for students to follow.

Active shooter drills

The bill requires the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to establish and publish best practice guidelines for conducting active shooter drills in schools on or before October 1, 2026. The bill requires the guidelines to include, but not be limited to:

- Developmental, trauma-informed, and age-appropriate design, including appropriate safety vocabulary;
- Accessibility and accommodations, or alternative safety education for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs and auditory or visual limitations;
- Prior notification of parents or persons acting as parents, including options to exempt a student from participation in any such drill;
- Prohibition of punitive or negative treatment for a student’s nonparticipation in any such drill;
- Prior to commencing an active shooter drill, an announcement that informs students that the drill is practice and there is no immediate danger;
- Provision of debriefing time following an active shooter drill before regular classroom time resumes;
- Any other matters the KSDE determines appropriate to minimize psychological harm to students while maintaining preparedness.

KSDE must review and update guidelines at least every three years and as necessary. Such review must incorporate current peer-reviewed research, federal agency recommendations, and nationally recognized best practices regarding school safety drills and the effects on student mental health and behavior. Once a year, each board of education must review the efficacy and effectiveness of active shooter drills and any impacts of such drills on the safety and mental health of students, teachers, and other school personnel and staff.

Parental Notification and Opt Out Policy

Schools must notify each parent or person acting as parent at least 24 hours before an active shooter drill, active shooter simulation or tactical training experience. The notice must provide that a parent or person acting as parent can opt a student out of participation. If notice cannot be provided 24 hours prior to an active shooter drill or simulation, the bill requires notice to be provided within 24 hours of the conclusion of the drill or simulation.

Any student that opts out of participation in the drill or simulation must have the opportunity to participate in alternative safety education and could not face any negative or punitive treatment for not participating in the drill.

The bill specifies that it does not supersede or limit any parent or person acting as parent to opt a student out of participation in an active shooter drill or simulation and does not require any school to conduct an active shooter drill in a manner that would conflict with the guidelines published by KSDE.

Active Shooter simulations

The bill prohibits schools from conducting, sponsoring, or permitting any active shooter simulation on school property where students in grades kindergarten through eight regularly attend. Active shooter simulations are only permitted at schools where students in grades nine through 12 regularly attend.

The bill does provide an exemption that allows law enforcement agencies and adult school personnel to conduct and participate in tactical training exercises that:

- Do not occur during regular school hours or any time when students are present or expected to be present;
- Have no students participating in the exercise; and
- Have received prior, written authorization for the use of school property for the exercise by the local board of education.

The bill amends the definition of “crisis drills” in continuing law to include intruder response drills, lockdown drills, and active shooter drills. Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to require public and private K12 schools and educational institutions to conduct at least three crisis drills every school year during school hours.

AT RISK ACCOUNTABILITY PLANS

The bill amends requirements for school district at risk accountability plans established during the 2024 legislative session (KSA 72-3574) related to cohort development and goals for such cohorts, including to:

- Replace the requirement that one cohort must be comprised of students in grade three with the requirement that one cohort must be comprised of students in grade four;
- Replace the requirement that one cohort is comprised of students who qualify for free meals

under the National School Lunch Program with the requirements that:

- Each of the cohort groups must be comprised of a subgroup identified for state assessment purposes; and
 - If two cohort groups of appropriate size cannot be identified using assessment subgroups, the school district will identify a student cohort group of students eligible to receive at-risk programs and services;
- If no cohort group can be formed with the minimum number of students (11 or more students), the district will consult with the Kansas State Department of Education to determine an appropriate alternative cohort group; and
- Change the requirement that one of the quantitative measures used to evaluate a cohort group be the cohort group's performance on the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics state assessments to being either the ELA or mathematics state assessment that corresponds to the quantitative academic improvement goal set for the cohort group.

Enactment Date

This bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2537

Caleb's Law

House Bill 2537 establishes Caleb's Law, amends the definition of sexual extortion, creates the crime of aggravated sexual extortion causing great bodily harm, and aggravated sexual extortion causing death. The bill also requires the Attorney General to prepare and provide certain educational materials and information concerning sexual extortion.

SEXUAL EXTORTION

The bill amends the definition of sexual extortion by adding provisions to include communication by any means a threat to distribute an image, video, or other recording of a person that is of a sexual nature, or depicts an individual in a state of nudity:

- With the intent to coerce the individual to produce or provide anything of value; or
- Causes the person to produce anything of value.

AGGRAVATED SEXUAL EXTORTION CAUSING GREAT BODILY HARM

The bill creates a new offense of aggravated sexual extortion causing great bodily harm, which would be defined as sexual extortion resulting in great bodily harm to the victim and the trier of fact finds that the sexual extortion of the victim was the proximate cause of such harm. It would not be a defense that the victim contributed to their own great bodily harm.

AGGRAVATED SEXUAL EXTORTION CAUSING DEATH

The bill creates a new offense of aggravated sexual extortion causing death, which would be defined as sexual extortion leading to death of the victim and the trier of fact finds that the sexual extortion of the victim was the proximate cause of the victim's death. It would not be a defense that the victim contributed to their own death. The bill raises the criminal penalties for existing sexual extortion offenses in certain circumstances and specifies the criminal penalty for the offenses created by the bill.

ATTORNEY GENERAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The Attorney General is required to prepare and provide educational materials and information concerning sexual extortion as defined by the bill. The Attorney General would also be required to collaborate with the State Board of Education and law enforcement agencies to educate and notify schools, students, parents, guardians, and the public about the changes made by the bill and the availability of educational materials and information on sexual extortion.

On or before July 1, 2027, and each year thereafter, the Attorney General is required to file a report regarding implementation of the educational materials requirements of the bill with the Governor, Senate President, Senate Minority Leader, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the State Board of Education.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2593

Contingency Fee Contracts for Legal Services

House Bill 2593 requires political subdivisions to hold an open meeting before approving a contingency fee contract for legal services and requires such contract to be approved by the Attorney General before becoming effective.

DEFINITIONS

- “Legal Services” is defined as services that constitute the practice of law or services performed by or under authority of a law firm or attorney, whether or not the services are performed by someone admitted to practice law in Kansas. This does not include services performed by attorneys or other individuals assisting a subdivision with:
 - Services related to bonds, temporary notes, no-fund warrants, state infrastructure loans or lease financing;
 - Debts, fees, fines, cost, restitution, taxes, or utility bills;
 - Recoup of costs, including deductibles, from at-fault party's insurance company;
 - Sale of property; or
 - Enforcement of support orders.
- “Political subdivisions” means a political or taxing subdivision of the state, including municipal and quasi-municipal corporations, board, commissions, authorities, councils, committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate groups or administrative units thereof receiving or expending and supported, in whole or in part, by public funds; and municipalities as defined in KSA 75-1117, which includes unified school districts, but does not include water utilities as defined by current law concerning water supply and distribution districts.

OPEN MEETING NOTICE

The bill requires the governing body of the subdivision to provide notice of an open meeting called for the purpose of considering a contingency fee contract for legal services. The notice could be provided in the subdivision's meeting agenda, and would be required to include:

- Reasons for pursuing the legal matter and the desired outcome of pursuing the matter;
- Qualifications, experience, and competence of the attorney or law firm selected or being considered;
- Nature of any relationship, regardless of how short, between the subdivision or governing body and attorney or law firm;
- Reasons the legal services cannot be performed by attorneys within the subdivision;
- Reasons legal representation cannot be attained for an hourly rate as opposed to a contingency fee;
- Reasons entering into the contract is in the best interest of the residents of the subdivision.

SUBDIVISION FINDINGS

Before a governing body can approve a contingency fee contract for legal services, the bill requires the subdivision to make a finding in writing that:

- It is in the best interest of the residents of the political subdivision to contract for the legal services

- of there is a substantial need for the legal services that are the subject of the contract;
- The legal services cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the political subdivision; and
- The legal services cannot be reasonably obtained from attorneys under a contract providing for an hourly rate payment structure due to the nature of the legal matter or because the political subdivision does not have the funds necessary or would pay substantially more for legal services at an hourly rate.

The governing body of the subdivision could approve the contract in an open meeting after discussion and consideration of the findings above.

ATTORNEY GENERAL APPROVAL

Before a contingency fee contract can take effect, the Attorney General must approve of the contract. The subdivision must provide the following information to the Attorney General for consideration:

- A copy of the proposed contract;
- A description of the legal matter;
- A copy of the notice and agenda, including the date such notice was issued and a description of the method used for providing the notice; and
- A copy of the written findings made by the subdivision as required above.

The Attorney General is required to approve or deny the contract within 45 days of receiving the required information. The Attorney General is required to approve the contract promptly if the request involves a matter of purely local concern that does not implicate any statewide interest. If no action is taken within 45 days, the contract is deemed to be approved.

The Attorney General is required to provide written notice to the subdivision if the contract is denied for one of the following three reasons:

- The legal matter represents one or more questions of law or fact that are in common with litigation the State has already addressed, or is pursuing;
- The legal matter involves claims or issues that are more appropriately in the scope of state enforcement, and the pursuit of the matter independently by the political subdivision could lead to inconsistent legal outcomes or undermine the state's unified position; or
- The contract does not comply with the Kansas Rules of Professional Conduct.

The notice must include a detailed explanation of the reason for denial.

ANNUAL REPORT

The bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on or before January 1, 2027, and each January 1 following, regarding each instance in which the Attorney General refused to approve a contract. The bill requires the report to include:

- The number of contracts that the Attorney General denied;
- The political subdivision that requested approval of each contract; and
- A detailed explanation of the reason for denying each contract.

The bill requires all information and records made, maintained, kept, obtained, or received by the Attorney General to be confidential except as required or authorized by the bill. These provisions related to confidentiality expire on July 1, 2031, unless the Legislature reenacts the provisions in accordance

with the Kansas Open Records Act prior to the expiration.

All provisions of the bill expire on July 1, 2031.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2618

Federal Assistance Report and Legislative Report Sunsets

House Bill 2618 requires KSDE to provide a report on federal assistance, eliminates certain required reports to the legislature, and adds sunsets to certain reports to the legislature required to be prepared and submitted by KSDE.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

On or before July 1 and January 1 each year, KSDE is required to prepare and submit a report to the legislature that provides information on the federal financial assistance that was accepted, distributed, or expended in the preceding and current fiscal year and the federal financial assistance that the Board anticipates will be accepted, distributed, or expended for the remainder of the current fiscal year and the federal financial assistance that the board anticipates will be accepted, distributed, or expended for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The report must include:

- The purpose of each federal financial assistance program;
- How the federal financial assistance was or will be used;
- The individual, office, or division of the State Board of Education that accepts, distributes, or expends such federal financial assistance;
- The federal agency, office, or division that administers such federal financial assistance on behalf of the federal government;
- For each federal financial assistance program, the total amount of federal financial assistance the State Board of Education accepted, distributed, or expended in the preceding fiscal year and current fiscal year, and the total amount of federal financial assistance that the board anticipates will be accepted, distributed, or expended for the remainder of the current fiscal year;
- The anticipated time that the federal financial assistance program will be available; and
- A description that outlines whether and how the educational initiatives of the federal financial assistance program will be sustained using state or local resources after the federal financial assistance program ends.

This report sunsets on July 1, 2034.

ELIMINATED REPORTS

The bill eliminates the following reports required to be prepared and submitted to the legislature upon the bill's effective date:

- Early Retirement Incentive Programs (KSA 72-2291)
- School district bond elections and issuance of general obligation bonds (KSA 72-5462)
- School district level special education excess costs (KSA 72-3422a)
- Student data collection beyond that established in statute and changes to such collection (KSA 72-6320)

REPORT SUNSETS

The bill adds sunsets to existing reports required to be submitted to the legislature as follows:

- On and after January 15, 2031:

- School district accreditation (KSA 72-5170)
- On and after July 1, 2031:
 - Expedited military licensure (KSA 48-3406)
 - Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program (KSA 72-4355)
- On and after July 1, 2032:
 - ACT exam and assessment data (KSA 72-5179);
 - Every Child Can Read Act (KSA 72-3262);
 - Foster Care Report Card (KSA 72-9944);
 - Performance accountability and longitudinal achievement (KSA 72-5178);
- On and after July 1, 2033:
 - At Risk Accountability Plans (KSA 72-3574);
 - School district open enrollment (KSA 72-3123);
- On and after July 1, 2034
 - Kansas Educator Registered Apprenticeship Grant Program (KSA 74-50,234).

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

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House Bill 2622

Municipal Lease Purchases

House Bill 2622 amends law related to lease purchase agreement protest petitions. For a county, school district, or community college proposes to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for the acquisition of real property or buildings that is to run for more than one fiscal year or will have total aggregate payments that exceed \$100,000, the municipality is required to adopt and publish a resolution on the agreement. The bill amends the percent of voters of the municipality that voted for Secretary of State in the last general election required to sign a protest petition for the question about whether the municipality may enter into the agreement to be put on the ballot from five percent of voters to three percent of voters.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

House Bill 2761

Speech Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act

House Bill 2761 establishes the Speech Language Pathology Assistant Licensure Act and establishes the powers, duties, and functions of the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services (Secretary) in carrying out the Act. The bill provides for speech language pathology assistant (SPLA) licensure, defines the scope of practice, specifies required qualifications, and requires SPLAs to practice under a supervising speech-language pathologist (SLP).

The bill requires the Secretary to issue an SPLA license to an individual who meets the educational and training requirements of the Act and any other reasonable qualifications adopted by the Secretary in rules and regulations. Such SPLA license expires after two years.

The bill defines key terms of the act, including “Certified speech pathology assistant”, “direct supervision”, “licensed speech-language pathology assistant”, “speech para”, and “supervising speech-language pathologist”.

The Act requires an individual seeking an SLPA license to have:

- Completed a certificate, technical, associate, or baccalaureate program, including:
 - A bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution;
 - A bachelor's degree in another field and 24 hours of core coursework in communication science and disorders; or
 - An SLPA program from a regionally accredited institution that offers an associate's degree, technical training program, or a certificate program; and
- Completed a supervised clinical experience that consists of 100 clock hours of supervised clinical fieldwork with direct client or patient contact or clinical practicum.

The Act also requires that individuals seeking to renew an SLPA license to show proof of having completed the required 12 hours of approved continuing education or 1.2 continuing education units during two year licensing period.

The bill establishes a scope of practice for an SLPA to be directed by a supervising SLP, and outlines activities SLPAs are prohibited from carrying out. The Act requires the supervising SLP to accept full and complete responsibility for all services and tasks performed or omitted by an SLPA under their supervision.

An SLP wishing to supervise an SLPA or multiple SLPAs to meet the following qualifications:

- Have a current Kansas SLP license or privilege to practice in the state;
- Have two years of full-time experience as an SLP following the successful completion of the post-graduate profession experience;
- Have earned at least two hours of professional development in the area of supervision or clinical instruction following licensure; and
- Earn at least one hour professional development in the area of ethics every three years.

The Act restricts a supervising SLP to supervising either two full-time SLPAs or three part-time SLPAs. If an SLP is supervising three part time SLPAs, the aggregate hours worked by the SLPAs could not exceed

those worked by two full-time SLPAs. The bill also outlines specific actions required to be taken by supervising SLPAs.

Minimum supervision requirements of SLPAs by an SLP are as follows:

- Documentation of direct supervision provided by the SLP for each student, patient, or client at least every 60 days;
- Provide direct supervision of at least 10.0 percent of an SLPA's total client contact time, which may be performed either in person or through live video conferencing; and
- Any additional amount of supervision determined at the direction of the supervising SLP consistent with the:
 - SLP's skills and experience;
 - Needs of the students, patients, and clients;
 - Service setting;
 - Tasks assigned; and
 - Laws and rules and regulations that govern SLPAs.

The Act requires SLPAs to notify the Secretary within seven business days following any change in an SLPA's supervising SLP.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT LICENSE

Issuance and Renewal Applications

The Act requires applicants seeking the issuance of an SLPA license, or the renewal of an SLPA license, to submit an application to the Secretary in a manner and form prescribed by the Secretary and pay all required fees. The Act requires the Secretary to electronically notify the licensee of their license expiration date at least 30 days before the expiration date through the email address on file with the Secretary. If the licensee does not submit a renewal application and pay the appropriate fee prior to the expiration of the license, the Act also requires the Secretary to provide a second notice stating that the license has expired and that it may only be renewed if the renewal application, renewal fee, and late renewal fee are received within 30 days of the license expiring.

Reciprocity requirements

The Act requires the Secretary to grant a license to an applicant who is licensed to practice in another state if:

- The Secretary receives documentation from the issuing state or states that the licensee is currently in good standing without violations or sanctions, pending or in effect;
- The applicant meets the current educational and clinical experience requirements established in the Act or holds a current, unrestricted license to practice as an SLPA in another jurisdiction in the United States;
- The applicants meets other qualifications as determined in rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary; and
- The applicant pays an endorsement and application fee.

The Act also provides for the issuance of temporary licenses and sets the maximum licensure fee at \$200. The Secretary is required to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Act.

Enactment Date

The bill is in effect upon publication in the statute book.

###

2026 Education Bill Summaries

Bills Impacting the Kansas State Department of Education

Senate Bill 30

Occupational Licensure Legislative Review

Senate Bill 30 requires the Legislature to adopt new occupational licenses and material changes to existing occupational licenses by certain state Executive Branch agencies.

DEFINITIONS

- “Agency” is defined as any department, bureau, division, board, authority, agency, commission, or institution of the executive branch of state government.
- “Material change” is defined as a modification that significantly affects the nature, scope, value, or fundamental aspects of the occupational license that is sufficiently important to influence the duties, decisions, rights, or obligation of the licensee or license applicant.
- “Occupational License” is defined as a nontransferable and exclusive authorization in law which the legislature, or any agency, is authorized by the legislature, establishes the personal qualifications necessary to engage in, and the rules and regulations that govern, any occupation or profession.

The Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Board of Nursing, Kansas Dental Board, State Board of Healing Arts, and State Board of Pharmacy are exempt from provisions of the bill.

Any new occupational license or material change to an existing occupational license proposed on or after January 1, 2026 requires approval of the Legislature by ratification before the requirement can go into effect. A written proposal of the proposed new license or material change to existing license must be submitted to the Kansas Legislative Research Department in writing and include the following information:

- An analysis and explanation by the agency why the new license or material change to existing license is necessary to protect public health, safety, or welfare;
- An examination by the agency of available alternative measures, including voluntary certification and other potential less restrictive measures;
- An analysis by the agency of whether the requirement is the least restrictive means to achieve its stated purpose. This item will include a ranking by the Kansas legislative research department of the agency's proposal on a scale of relative restrictiveness of regulatory measures;
- An evaluation of and comparison of whether, and how, other states regulate the profession at

issue to be prepared by the Kansas legislative research department to be prepared by the Kansas Legislative Research Department;

- An examination by the agency of the effect of the new occupational license or material change to an existing occupational license will have on job creation or retention; and
- An examination by the agency of the costs and benefits associated with the requirement, including, but not limited to:
 - Estimated compliance and opportunity costs, including licensing fees, education requirements, and associated costs, experience requirements, and an estimation of the total number of calendar days dedicated by an applicant obtaining the license;
 - Estimated secondary or indirect costs; and
 - Estimated effect on state expenditures, including estimated administrative expenses.

Such agencies are also required to annually report the following information to the joint committee on administrative rules and regulations during the month of September:

- The number of current holders of the occupational license;
- A brief description of the typical employment of license holders;
- A list of the regulations governing the issuing and maintenance of the occupational license;
- The authorizing and implementing statutes for the regulations;
- Whether the occupational license is mandated or regulated by federal requirements
- A description of the required education, training, and testing requirements to obtain the occupational license,
- A description of any continuing education or testing requirements to maintain the occupational license;
- An enumeration of the total fees paid to the agency to obtain and maintain the occupational license;
- An identification of any requirements concerning good moral character to obtain or maintain the occupational license;
- An identification of any restrictions in obtaining or holding the occupational license imposed on individuals with criminal records; and
- A description of any reciprocity agreements allowing for interstate occupational license recognition.

Enactment Date

This bill is in effect upon publication in the Kansas Register.

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2026 Education Bill Summaries

Budget Bill

House Bill 2513 – Budget Bill

K-12 Education Appropriations

House Bill 2513 makes appropriations for the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, 2027, and 2028.

FY 2026

For KSDE, the bill:

Lapses:

- \$435,837 State General Fund (SGF) for Kansas Public Employees Retirement Systems (KPERS) school employer contributions of non-Unified School Districts (USDs);
- \$12.0 million SGF for KPERS USDs;
- \$97.5 million SGF from the State Foundation Aid account; and
- \$38.0 million SGF from the Supplemental State Aid account.

Including these adjustments, the total appropriation for KSDE for FY 2026 is \$6.6 billion, including \$4.9 billion SGF.

The bill requires KSDE, during fiscal year 2026, to prepare a special education funding report for school year 2025-2026 on the school district financial accountability report immediately following the state aid table published pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5171 to include:

1. Special education state aid;
2. Supplemental general fund transfers to the special education fund required by KSA 72-5143(i)(2)(C);
3. Other supplemental general fund transfers to the special education fund not required pursuant to KSA 72-5143(i)(2)(C);
4. An amount equal to 8% of excess costs as determined pursuant to KSA 72-3422;
5. The cash carryover balance for the special education fund for each applicable fiscal year; and
6. The sum of items one through six.

The financial accountability report for state totals must also include a line that provides the total amount appropriated to the Kansas State School for the Blind and Kansas State School for the Deaf. The agency must certify that it has complied with the financial accountability report to the Director of the Budget and provide a copy of such certification to the Director of Legislative Research, the House Committees

on Appropriations and K-12 Education Budget, and the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Education.

FY 2027

For KSDE, the bill appropriates \$6.7 billion, including \$5.0 billion SGF. This includes \$6.0 billion, including \$4.9 billion SGF for the major categories of school finance, KPERS USDs, and KPERS non-USDs.

State General Fund. The bill appropriates the following from the SGF:

- \$15.6 million for operating expenditures;
- \$80,000 for the Center for READING;
- \$34.4 million for KPERS non-USDs;
- \$521.2 million for KPERS USDs;
- \$2.5 million for ACT and the WorkKeys Assessments Program;
- \$1.5 million for Career and Technical Education Transportation State Aid;
- \$67,700 for Education Commission of the States dues;
- \$2.5 million for School Safety and Security Grants;
- \$5.1 million for School District Juvenile Detention Facilities and Flint Hills Job Corps Center Grants;
- \$2.5 million for School Food Assistance; and
- \$110,000 for Educable Deaf-Blind and Severely Handicapped Children's Program Aid;

Transfers. The bill authorizes the following transfers:

- \$550,000 on March 30, 2027, and \$550,000 on June 30, 2027, from the State Safety Fund to the SGF to reimburse other state agency costs for services provided to KSDE;
- \$93,750 on July 1, 2026, and quarterly thereafter, from the State Highway Fund of the Department of Transportation to the School Bus Safety Fund of KSDE; and
- An amount certified by the Commissioner of Education from the Motorcycle Safety Fund of KSDE to the Motorcycle Safety Fund of the State Board of Regents on July 1, 2026, to cover costs of driver's license programs conducted by community colleges.

The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to transfer any part of an SGF appropriation for KSDE to another SGF appropriation for FY 2027.

The bill appropriates \$41.4 million from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund (ELARF) for KPERS non-USDs.

The bill also changes funding for the Pre-K pilot program from SGF to Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF) funding for FY 2027.

Lapses:

The bill lapses the following:

- \$71.2 million SGF from the State Foundation Aid Account; and
- \$24.0 million SGF from the Supplemental State Aid Account.

The bill requires KSDE to expend no more than the following amounts from existing FY 2027 funding

sources:

- \$1.8 million for the professional development program;
- \$1.8 million for Fastbridge;
- \$1.4 million for the SparkWheel program;
- \$1.3 million for the Mentor Teacher Program;
- \$800,000 for the jobs for American's graduates-Kansas programs (Jag-K);
- \$500,000 to provide for the state match for the e-rate program;
- \$360,000 for teachers who receive national board certification; and
- \$320,000 for the youth career discovery pilot program that uses virtual reality technology to introduce youth in grades 6 through 8 to support for developing individual plans of study that guide their high school curriculum. The pilot program would be administered through KSDE and implemented by the Kansas youth career discovery partners and require a match of \$1 of nonstate or private money for every \$2 of state money.

The bill also requires KSDE to prepare and submit a report to the legislature that provides information on the federal financial assistance that the State Board or KSDE has accepted, distributed, or expended in the preceding fiscal year and the amount that is anticipated to be received or applied for in their current fiscal year. The report must be submitted on or before July 1 and January 1 in fiscal year 2027.

The report must provide the following information:

- The purpose of each federal financial assistance program;
- How the federal financial assistance program was or will be used;
- The individual, office, or division of the State Board of Education that accepts, distributes, or expends such financial assistance;
- The federal agency, office, or division of that administers the financial assistance on behalf of the federal government;
- With respect to each federal financial assistance program, the total amount of federal financial assistance that the State Board of Education accepted, distributed, or expended in the preceding fiscal year and current fiscal year and the total amount of federal financial assistance that the board anticipates will be accepted, distributed, or expended for the remainder of the fiscal year;
- The anticipated time that the federal financial assistance will be made available;
- A description that outlines whether and how the educational initiatives of the federal financial assistance program will be sustained using state or local resources after the federal financial assistance program ends.

The bill also requires KSDE to establish a complaint process and penalty for any public school that:

- Experiences a student walkout and fails to obtain written parental consent for each absent student to leave the school building;
- Fails to enforce school attendance laws and policies with associated disciplinary actions for such absent students; and
- Has staff encourage, facilitate, or enable a student walkout.

The State Board is required to adjudicate any complaints and determine whether a school district will be assessed a penalty. The penalty must be equal to the contract base salary of the superintendent of the school district for each school day that the school district experiences a student walkout. The penalty must be remitted by the school district to KSDE and KSDE must remit penalty amounts to the State

Treasurer. The State Treasurer must deposit the entire amount into the state treasurer to the credit of the state general fund. The bill also states that any school day in which the district experiences a student walkout cannot be counted as an instructional day for purposes of the school term. The bill defines a “student walkout” as an organized effort for students to willfully violate school attendance requirements.

Enactment Date

This bill went into effect upon publication in the Kansas Register on May 7, 2026.

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